

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 322

Designating November 2002, as “National Epilepsy Awareness Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. FITZGERALD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating November 2002, as “National Epilepsy Awareness Month”.

Whereas epilepsy is a neurological condition affecting 2,300,000 people in the United States;

Whereas a seizure is a disturbance in the electrical activity of the brain, and 25,000,000 Americans (1 in every 10) will have at least 1 seizure during their lives;

Whereas 180,000 new cases of seizures and epilepsy are diagnosed each year, and 3 percent of Americans will have developed epilepsy by the time they are 75;

Whereas 41 percent of people who currently have epilepsy experience persistent seizures despite the treatment they are receiving;

Whereas a survey sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that the burden of disease for people with epilepsy is comparable to that experienced by people with cancer, diabetes, and arthritis;

Whereas epilepsy in older children and adults remains a formidable barrier to a normal life, affecting education, employment, marriage, childbearing, and personal fulfillment;

Whereas stigma surrounding epilepsy continues to fuel discrimination and isolates people with seizure disorders from the mainstream life;

Whereas in spite of these obstacles, epileptics can live healthy and productive lives and go on to make significant contributions to society;

Whereas we must ensure that funding for epilepsy research programs at the National Institutes of Health, and for epilepsy programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must continue to increase; and

Whereas we must ensure that people with epilepsy in underserved and unserved areas of the country have access to appropriate care, and to this end it is essential that the epilepsy program at the Health Resources and Services Administration receive initial funding to create demonstration projects to improve access to services in those communities: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates November 2002, as “National
3 Epilepsy Awareness Month”; and

4 (2) requests that the President issue a procla-
5 mation calling upon the people of the United States

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- 1 to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies
- 2 and activities.

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